

The President's Daily Brief

31 October 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Egypt

Israel

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Several radical fedayeen groups are preparing to oppose any attempt to carry out distasteful provisions of agreements with the Jordanian Government. (Page 2)

Allende's announced cabinet is dominated by committed Marxists and especially favors his own Socialist Party. (Page 3)

Soviets

(Page 4)

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Soviet

(Page 5)

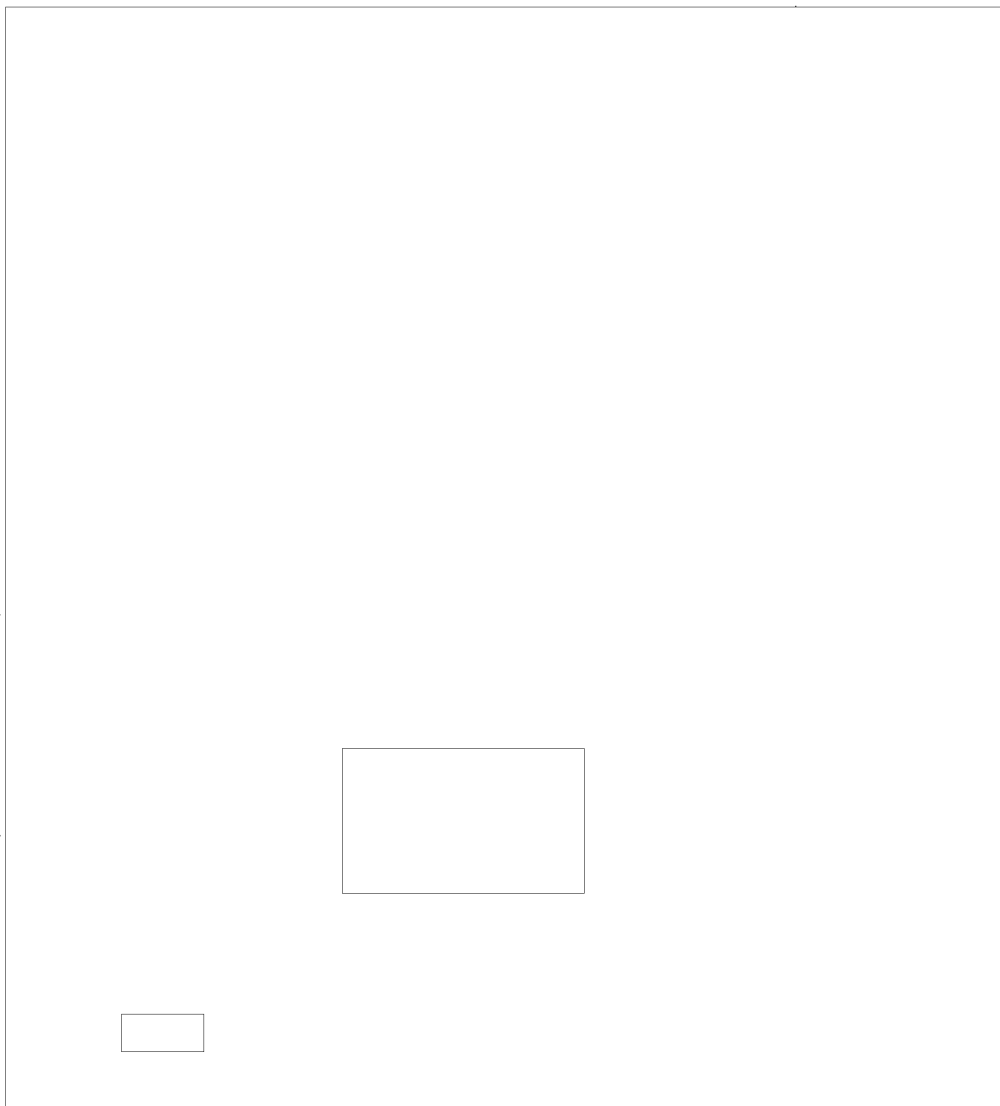
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The South Vietnamese Supreme Court has voided the conviction of a Lower House deputy held for pro-Communist activities, but the government is determined not to set him free. (Page 5)

Italy and Communist China have reached tentative agreement on recognition. (Page 5)

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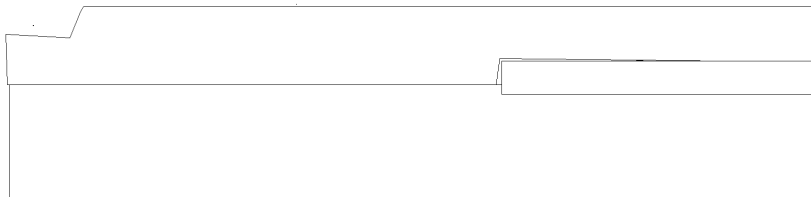
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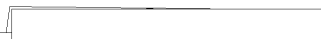
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ISRAEL-EGYPT

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JORDAN

Several of the more radical fedayeen groups, chafing at the cease-fire, are strengthening their defenses and stockpiling food and ammunition

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Government authorities, for their part, expect trouble and are preparing for it.

Tensions are likely to rise sharply after 9 November, when the "transition period" provided for in last week's protocol between the government and fedayeen expires. At that time all of the more restrictive provisions of agreements stemming from the crisis take effect. The two sides do not seem headed for an early renewal of large-scale fighting, however, for the stronger and more moderate groups--Fatah and the Palestine Liberation Organization--appear willing to carry out their end of the agreements and will do their best to keep clashes from escalating.

By appointing the hawkish Wasfi Tal as prime minister, Husayn has served notice of his intent to enforce the agreements strictly. Even if Arab leaders meeting in Cairo next week press Husayn to remove Tal, he seems in no mood to make such a concession.

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CHILE

The cabinet Salvador Allende announced yesterday is dominated by committed Marxists and especially favors the president-elect's own extremist Socialist Party. Allende's closest confidant, Jose Toha, will be minister of interior, the post first in succession to the presidency. In that job Toha will control all the police forces as well as the chief executives of Chile's 25 provinces. The Socialists' three other portfolios include the Foreign Ministry, which went to Clodomiro Almeyda, a man with close ties with both Havana and Peking.

The Communist Party, chief architect and organizational core of Allende's six-member coalition, placed long-time stalwarts as ministers of finance, public works, and labor. [redacted]

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[redacted] Pedro Vuskovic, a "leftist independent" named as minister of economy and development. [redacted]

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The Radical Party received three posts-- defense, education, and mining. The first two appear to be non-Marxist window dressing, but the new minister of mines is a leftist close to Allende and will have the key role in the promised takeover of Chile's vast copper industry.

The three smaller non-Marxist coalition members share the other four posts. Among them, the designated minister of agriculture broke with the Christian Democrats last year after playing a major role in President Frei's controversial agrarian reform program. [redacted]

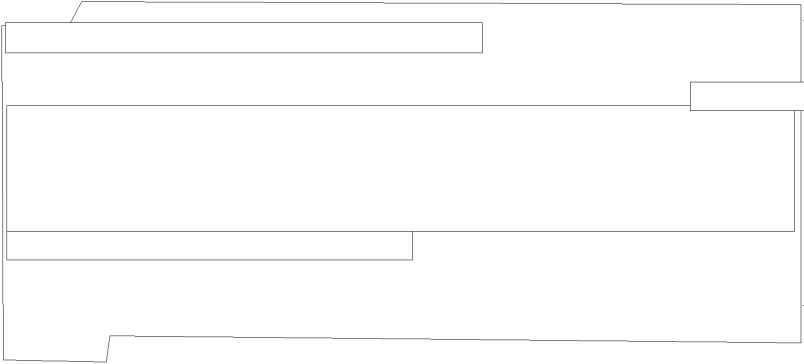
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NOTES

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South Vietnam: In a clear assertion of its independence from the executive, the Supreme Court yesterday voided the conviction of imprisoned Lower House Deputy Tran Ngoc Chau, who was tried before a military court last March for pro-Communist activities. Under normal legal procedures, Chau should be released within two weeks, but a presidential aide has told [redacted] that the deputy would never be set free as long as Thieu was in office. Nevertheless, the government has not discovered a satisfactory way to hold Chau, despite the urgency placed on this matter by Thieu.

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Italy - Communist China: Tentative agreement on recognition was reached during talks in Paris on 27-28 October. The formula is similar to that of the successful Ottawa-Peking negotiations earlier this month. The Italian Government must still make up its mind on how it will vote in the UN on the question of Chinese representation.

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